

LIZZ ROMAN & DANCERS

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LIZZ ROMAN & DANCERS Inhabit A 2 Story Home In San Francisco's
Outer Sunset Neighborhood For Home Salon Performances
Engaging The Architecture With Performance, An
Original Musical Score Performed Live By Watersaw
and Films By Award Winning Pete Litwinowicz
"SUNSET DANCES" Architectural Meditations II
June 16 - July 2, 2017
Home Salon Performances
Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, at 8:30pm

Lizz Roman & Dancers for 3 weekends June 16 - July 2nd will inhabit a two story home located near Ocean Beach in San Francisco's Outer Sunset with home salon performances for a very limited audience on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays. **"SUNSET DANCES", Architectural Meditations II** is Lizz Roman & Dancers (LR&D) latest site collaboration, performed in multiple locations simultaneously with viewers at each location migrating throughout the home performance environment. The award winning Roman's unique choreographic style has established her as one of California's leading site choreographers. **"SUNSET DANCES", Architectural Meditations II** was developed with a cast of 8 female dancers, musical collaborators WATERSAW, both LR&D and WATERSAW were recipients of Izzie awards for 2012's "DEEPER". **"SUNSET DANCES"** also features award winning lighting designer Clyde Sheets ("BLUE FLOOR REFLECTIONS" 2007) and academy award winning filmmaker Pete Litwinowicz. Choreography is by Lizz Roman featuring dancers Chris Black, Sonsheree Giles, Becky Robinson-Leviton, Megan Lowe, Jamie Nakama, Linda Phung, Rowena Richie, and Sonya Smith.

It could be said that with this performance Lizz Roman & Dancers collapse space and time. **"SUNSET DANCES"** offers audiences a deeply immersive site experience, watching from 3 different perspectives simultaneously. Viewers will peer inside and outside windows, doorways, down stairwells and enter into rooms with dancers, musicians and films as the dance moves from room to room, from up to down, from outside to inside, watching one dance from varying perspectives. Using windows, doorways, stairs, walls and furniture to frame their architectural story, performers and audience will move together between the indoor and outdoor sites.

"As I create the dance, the dance tells me what I need to do. It is a conversation between myself, the building and the dancers..." states Roman. *"My job is to direct by watching, a form of architectural listening that defines the style of dance we use to embrace a building. Audiences experience the dance happening next to them: a dance where form and function are one."*

"SUNSET DANCES", Architectural Meditations II: Home Salon Performances Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays June 16- July 2nd at 8:30pm, a cast of 8 female dancers, featuring films by Pete Litwinowicz, live music by WATERSAW and lighting designed by Clyde Sheets.

Performances: Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays 8:30 pm. **Tickets:** in advance \$25.00;

Photos: downloadable in hi-res jpeg format from <http://lizzromananddancers.com/press.html>

Reservation: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/sunset-dances-tickets-32395283164>

Visit our website at <http://lizzromananddancers.com>

BACKGROUND:

Lizz Roman, Artistic Director of LIZZ ROMAN & DANCERS (LR&D) has been a dancer and choreographer in San Francisco since 1984. "The dance is the sum of the journey we take through a site," states Roman. "In the words of LeCorbusier, 'To create architecture is to put in order. Put what in order? Function and objects.' I seek guidance from each building I collaborate with," continues Roman. "I create a visual history of our physical journey through that space that becomes a dance. It is driven mainly by the architecture of the space."

Roman and her company have been making dances in San Francisco's dance spaces, local theaters, and outdoor festivals since 1995. The work has been described by critics as "Eloquent", "Breathtaking", "Provocative", and "Captivating." LR&D are best known for their trademark expansive dances that spring, roll, and fly through buildings, resulting in an Isadora Duncan Dance Award (IZZIE) for outstanding choreography in 2013 for "DEEPER: Architectural Meditation at CounterPulse" (2012), and a IZZIE nomination for Best Company Performance for CELLGROUND (2005). The company has developed innovative site-specific techniques to work in unique and commonplace locations with a variety of multi-media collaborators and scenic elements. WaterSaw, Roman's most recent music collaborators received an IZZIE Award for Original Music score for 2012's "DEEPER." The SF Butoh Festival and Yerba Buena Gardens Festival commissioned Roman to create a site-specific dance, which premiered at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts in 2005, and was remounted again for the 2006 festival season. In 1998, Roman and filmmaker Kevin Cunningham received the SF WEEKLY Black Box Award for Cross-Genre Performance for "IN HER DREAMS."

Dancers:

Becky Robinson-Leviton Becky has studied acrobatics, rock climbing, contact improvisation, yoga, acro yoga, physical theater, and aerial dance. Graduating with a BA in Dance from CSULB, Becky is an emerging dancer and choreographer in the SF Bay Area community and has performed with some wonderful local dance and theater companies thus far. These include Kinetech Arts, WePlayers, Twisted Oak Dance Theater, 13th Floor Dance Theater, Lili Weckler/Unhinge, and Alyssandra Katherine Dance Project. In the Spring of 2017, Becky collaborated with Hannah Westbrook to premiere *Limits*, her first site-specific dance/theater piece on a 9ft tall, double-sided, wooden, "A" frame ladder. Becky is incredibly stoked to be part of Sunset Dances with Lizz Roman & Dancers

Chris Black has been choreographing and performing in San Francisco since 1992 and working with Lizz Roman off and on ever since. She has won an Isadora Duncan Award and two BATCC Awards for her choreography. She has been in residence at ODC Theatre, the Djerassi Resident Artists Program and the California Academy of Sciences. She is currently incubating The Murmurations Project, an impossible, decades-long project about artistic transmission, place history, and chaos theory.

Jamie Nakama recently moved to the Bay from Hawaii where she performed and collaborated with a number of local artists including, IONA Contemporary Dance Theater, Tau Dance Theater, Wai Company, Samadhi Hawaii, Kealoha, and Taimane Gardner. She taught aerial dance for many years and is a capoeira instructor with Capoeira Besouro Hawaii. Jamie holds a bachelors degree in Life Sciences, Visual Arts and Dance from the University of Minnesota and a master's degree in Ecological Anthropology from the University of Hawaii. She is currently a professor of anthropology at Diablo Valley College and a yoga instructor in her spare time!

Linda Phung is a native of Houston, Texas, Linda trained at the Houston Ballet Academy and West University Dance Center before moving to the Bay Area for college. She graduated from Stanford University with a BA in Human Biology and MA in Public Policy. As a dancer, she has worked with several companies in the Bay Area, including Epiphany Productions, LevyDance, MoveMessenger(s), CALI & Co, and ka-nei-see | collective. She has previously performed with LR&D in This Beautiful Space, and is very excited to be reuniting with LR&D again in Sunset Dances!

Megan Lowe is a performance artist, dancer, choreographer, singer, teacher, and administrator with degrees in Theater, Dance & Performance Studies (TDPS) and Psychology from UC Berkeley. Some artists she has performed with are Flyaway Productions, Scott Wells & Dancers, Dance Brigade, Epiphany Productions, This Sweet Nothing, Marit Brook-Kothlow, Christine Cali, Beth Fein, Karl Frost, Keith Hennessy, Nita Little, and Tino Sehgal. Megan continues to create her own works, presented both live and on film, as well as making collaborative works with dance-artist, Sonsheree Giles. Amongst her site-specific dance films, Never Finished: Explorations at the Finnish was officially selected by the Sans Souci Festival of Dance Cinema and the Tiny Dance Film Festival; and We Came To See Something... premiered at the closing show of the Subterranean Arthouse. Megan is a singer and collaborator in the alternative-folk band, TYPESTEREO. She is also a Teaching Artist for Joe Goode Performance Group and Bandaloop and teaches semesterly contact improvisation and partnering classes at UC Berkeley.

Rowena Richie is a San Francisco based performer and dance theater artist. Most recently she has performed in the work of Nol Simonse and EmSpace Dance. Her past original works include, among others, "Twindependent," co-created with Jennifer Chien, as part of the CounterPulse Artist in Residence Commissioning program, and "Lost and Found in the Mission," co-created with Susie Hara, which received the Best Ensemble Performance award in the San Francisco Fringe Festival. She has received grants from organizations such as the Zellerbach Family Foundation, Dancers' Group's CA\$H dance grant program, the Harold F. Gallivan, Jr. Family Foundation, and Moving Words. She is a founding member of the Erika Chong Shuch Performance Project, and is currently collaborating with Chong Shuch and company on For You. Her essays and articles have appeared in In Dance, and she has read her work in Lit Crawl's Dirty Laundry: Loads of Prose. Richie holds a BFA in dance from the University of Michigan and California State University, Long Beach, and an MA in Interdisciplinary Arts from New College of California. She is a City College of San Francisco instructor of Body Dynamics, or what she calls "Flow with Ro."

Sonsherée Giles is a dancer, choreographer, teacher, and costume designer. She enjoys making dances based on observations of animals, landscapes, art history, and daily life experiences. Sonsherée has an MFA in performance/choreography from Mills College and from 2005-2015, she was a performing/teaching artist with AXIS Dance Company. She has taught contemporary dance in public school systems, institutions, dance festivals and universities. Sonsherée formed a container for her choreography called *This Sweet Nothing* and has been generously supported by Zellerbach Family Foundation, CLOROX Company Foundation, CA\$H grant, and East Bay Fund for Individual Artists. Sonsherée has received an Isadora Duncan Award for ensemble performance, and a Homer Avila Award for Excellence in the field of integrated dance. Recently, she has been seen dancing for Flyaway Productions, Nancy Karp & Dancers, Amy Lewis and Epiphany Productions, as well as creating dances in collaboration with Megan Lowe and John Carnahan. She is thrilled to be working on her second project with Lizz Roman and Dancers. www.sonsheree.com

Sonya Smith is delighted to return 'home' to dance with LR&D again, after a graduate school hiatus to pioneer the Aerial Dance Track of the MFA in Dance at the University of Colorado Boulder. Smith has accumulated somatic inspiration for performance and teaching from modern dance, bungee and harnesses, Contact Improvisation, Alexander Technique, Iyengar, kinesiology, invented aerial apparatus, as well as a certificates in Pilates and the GYROKINESIS® Method. She has had the privilege to be in creative process with Dance Brigade, Gesel Mason, Michelle Ellsworth, Joanna Haigood, Project Bandaloop and Sara Shelton Mann

Filmmaker

Pete Litwinowicz (Filmmaker) is a choreographer and filmmaker who concentrates on combining both disciplines. Pete co-owns RE:Vision Effects, Inc, a visual effects software company, and works as visual effects software developer and artist for the motion picture and video industries. Pete has won several awards including an Academy Award®; an Ars Electronica Golden Nica (Austria); and an Imagina Award (Monaco) for Best Visual Effects and Visual Innovation. Pete worked as co-artistic director of Dance Continuum SF from 2007-2012, and danced for Company Chaddick from 1996-2006. Pete has also served on the faculty at San Francisco Dance Center and at Western Ballet, among several other schools.

WaterSaw (Musicians):

John Givens, Guitar, Mike Tornatore, Drums, Nicole Laby, Vocals & Percussion and Gael Alcock, Cello.

WaterSaw, winner of the 2013 Isadora Duncan award for best music composition, is a group of musicians from the San Francisco Bay Area. Their music is composed specifically for modern dance choreography and film scores. Creating layers of sound through loopers (recording devices), their live music varies in range and can be sparse, rhythmic, ethereal, or driving. The collaboration of music and art facilitates the intended artistic expression. WaterSaw uses their instruments in both conventional and experiential ways, giving way to an array of textures and sounds. WaterSaw is composed of: Cello, guitar, percussion, drums, and female vocals.

Nicole Laby, (Vocals & Percussion) Nicole's formative training as a vocalist began in her early 20's. She utilized classical skills to create a solid foundation for the development of alternative vocalizations. Additionally, Nicole's travels to Africa, Asia, and the Middle East inspired her nonconventional approach to singing; nature, environment, people, and native music were/are great inspirations. Currently, she continues to focus on music, and develop her skills as a painter. Nicole formed WaterSaw in 2008. For the past two decades she formed 3 other Bay Area bands, and wrote original music on guitar. Nicole recorded 13 albums during this period and performed in the SF Bay Area, Los Angeles, and New York, with some live radio performances in SF. Her respect and adoration for modern dance informed her transition into collaboration with choreographers.

Mike Tornatore, (Drums) is a self-taught drummer of 32 years. His passion for the instrument has kept him consistently involved in musical projects ranging from Jazz to Metal. Michael spent 7 years in the Los Angeles music scene & the last 14 in San Francisco's which has exposed him to many different opportunities & challenges. His thirst to grow & love for the profession has him currently involved in nine projects with varying styles, personalities & commitment levels. Michael possesses a solid meter while presenting creative parts to **Gael Alcock, (Cello)** is a cellist who enjoys collaborative projects which utilize improvisational frameworks. She's currently at the California Jazz Conservatory where she studies and performs Brazilian, fusion, bebop, swing, and North Indian classical music. Prior to the jazz phase, she played with East and West Coast orchestras and chamber music groups and studied cello with George Finckel, Nicolau Hohloff, and Michael Grebanier.

Lighting:

Clyde Sheets (Lighting) is theater educator and designer. He has designed works for Theatre, Ballet, Opera, and Contemporary Dance over the past 25 years in the SF Bay Area and the mid west. Clyde began working with Lizz Roman & Dancers in 2000 on their work 8 1/2 X 11 at ODC Theater. This began a run of designing the next 6 shows for Lizz, also doing music for 4 shows (with Alex Kelly and later Jerome Linder). These shows earned critical acclaim, an Izzy Award for the company and a place for CS in the Prague Quadrennial in 2011 for the lighting design of the 2006 show *Blue Floor Reflections*. Other work by CS includes *The Missing Generation* for San Francisco's Sean Dorsey Dance Company, which was nominated for an Isadora Duncan Company Performance award in 2015. Clyde received Isadora Duncan Dance Awards for Deborah Slater's *Hotel of Memories* at CounterPulse in S. F. and a Bay Area Circle Critics Dramatic Production award for *Metamorphosis* at Aurora Theater in Berkeley CA. in 2011 and in 2012 for Shotgun Theaters production of *Woyzeck*, both directed by Mark Jackson. As an educator CS has taught dance lighting /collaborative process at Mills College in Oakland California, Grand Valley State University and Interlochen Arts Academy and was the Production Manager for the Theater Arts at San Francisco State University, where he earned an MFA in Design in 2010.

Lizz Roman & Dancers (LR&D) present Home Salon Performances of "SUNSET DANCES", Architectural Meditations II ,

Dates: Friday, Saturday and Sunday June 16, 17, 18, 23, 24, 25, 30, July 1 and 2, 2017

At: 2050 47th Ave, SF

Performances: Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays 8:30 pm. **Tickets:** in advance \$25.00;

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Reservation: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/sunset-dances-tickets-32395283164>

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